

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAIGON 08775 021332Z

42

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 OMB-01 IO-14 CIAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6404

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 8775

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, MP, VS

SUBJ: MAURITIAN RECOGNITION OF "PRG"

REF: PORT LOUIS 0529

1. REFTTEL HIGHLIGHTS PROBLEM WHICH CONTINUES TO BE OF CONSIDERABLE CONCERN TO US-THE NECESSITY TO GIVE OUR MISSIONS ABROAD A CONTINUOUS FLOW OF INFORMATION AND MATERIALS ABOUT THE EVOLVING REALITIES IN VIET-NAM. WE APPRECIATE MAGNITUDE OF PROBLEM, THE EXCELLENT WORK EA/VN HAS DONE AND IS CONTINUING TO DO DESPITE THE SHORTAGE OF POSITIONS IN BOTH DEPARTMENT AND SAIGON WHICH WOULD PERMIT LARGER EFFORT BE MOUNTED TO COUNTER DRV/"PRG" DIPLOMATIC OFFENSIVE.

2. WITHIN VIET-NAM IT HAS BEEN A BAD YEAR FOR THE DRV/"PRG". THEIR POLITICAL APPEAL HAS NEVER BEEN AT A LOWER EBB. MILITARY PRESSURE, HIGHER THAN AT ANYTIME SINCE THE 1972 OFFENSIVE, HAS BEEN SUCCESSFULLY CONTAINED BY RVNAF. THE CAMPAIGN TO PREVENT ADMISSION OF "PRG" TO INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE HAS, SO FAR, CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 SAIGON 08775 021332Z

BEEN SUCCESSFUL DUE TO THE CLOSE AND EFFECTIVE ATTENTION AND

GREAT EFFORT EXTENDED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

3. YET THE RELENTLESS PRESSURE CONTINUES TO ACHIEVE BY THE "DIPLOMATIC OFFENSIVE" WHAT CANNOT BE ACHIEVED EITHER POLITICALLY OR MILITARILY WITHIN VIET-NAM. ALTHOUGH RVN FOREIGN MINISTRY, UNDER ABLE AND ENERGETIC NEW FONMIN BAC, IS MAKING EVERY EFFORT TO DO WHAT IT CAN, IT CANNOT POSSIBLY COPE ON ITS OWN WITH MAGNITUDE OF PROBLEM OF WORLDWIDE ASISTANCE FROM COMMUNIST AND OTHER LEFTIST MECHANISMS AT COMMAND OF DRV/"PRG".

4. WE WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S ESTIMATE OF PARTICULAR TARGETS ON WHICH THE DRV/"PRG" WILL CONCENTRATE IN THEIR "DIPLOMATIC OFFENSIVE" FOR THE BALANCE OF THE CALENDAR YEAR. THIS ESTIMATE SHOULD INCLUDE NOT ONLY THOSE COUNTRIES STILL UNCOMMITTED TO EITHER GVN OR "PRG", BUT ALSO THOSE WHERE DEPARTMENT FEELS THERE IS CHANCE OF MOVEMENT FROM SUPPORT OF GVN TO PRO-"PRG" STANCE. WE WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE THOUGHTS ON WHAT USG CAN DO TO FRUSTRATE COMMUNIST CAMPAIGN THROUGH PRE-EMPTIVE INFORMATIONAL AND EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITY.

5. USIA CIRCULAR 11763 NOTED THAT USIS SAIGON IS PREPARED TO RPOVIDE USIS POSTS WORLDWIDE WITH PERTINENT DATA AND INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS ON NORTH VIET-NAM AND COMMUNIST-CONTROLLED AREAS OF THE SOUTH AS WELL AS TO ANSWER ALL REASONABLE QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE VIET-NAM WAR AND TH CEASE-FIRE. WE WISH TO STRESS HERE, IN ADDITON, THAT THIS MISSION WILL ATTEMPT TO MEET EVERY REQUEST FOR SUCH INFORMATION FROM ANY OFFICIAL USG CONSUMER.

6. RESOURCES OF EMBASSY, INCLUDING USIS, ARE OBVIOUSLY LIMITED. MAIN BURDEN OF EFFORT WE HAVE IN MIND MUST BE BORNE BY DEPARTMENT AND OTHER WASHINGTON AGENCIES. HOWEVER, WE WOULD WELCOME SUGGESTIONS ON HOW SAIGON MISSION MAY BEST ASSIST IN SUCH AN EFFORT.
MARTIN

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